



Six Irish Folksongs

Opus 78

No. 2

What the bee is
to the flow' ret

Air: THE YELLOW GARRON

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

What the bee is to the flow'ret
What the bee is to the flow'ret,
When he looks for honey dew
Thro' the leaves that close embow'r it,
That, my love, I'll be to you, my love, I'll be to you,
And what the bank, with verdure glowing,
Is to waves that wander near,
Whisp'ring kisses while they're going,
That I'll be to you, my dear.

But they say the bee's a rover,
That he'll fly when sweets are gone;
And when once the kiss is over,
Faithless brooks will wander on,

Well, well, 'tis but right that bees and brooks
should sip and kiss them while they may.

Texts by Thomas Moore (1779-1852)

What the bee is to the flow'ret

C. V. Stanford

Allegretto

S
A
T *mf*
B *mf*

What the bee is to the flow'r - et, When he looks for

S
A
T
B

ho - ney dew Thro' the leaves that close em - bow'r it,

What the bee is to the flowret

7

S *mf* And what the bank, with

A What the bank, with

T *p* That, my love, I'll be to you,

B *p* That, my love, I'll be to you,

10

S *poco rall.* ver - dure glow - ing, Is to waves that wan - der near,

A *poco rall.* ver - dure glow - ing, Is to waves that wan - der near,

T — my love, I'll be to you,

B *poco rall.* — my love, I'll be to you,

13

S *p* Whis - p'ring kiss - es while they're go - ing, *f* That I'll be to

A *p* Whis - p'ring kiss - es, *f* That, that

T *p* Whis - p'ring, whis - p'ring kiss - es, *f* That, that

B *p* Whis - p'ring, whis - p'ring kiss - es, *f* That, that

What the bee is to the flowiret

16

S you, — my dear.

A I'll be, — I'll be — to you, — my dear.

T I'll be, — I'll be — to you, — my dear.

B I'll be — to you, — my dear.

dim.

20

S But they say — the bee's — a rov - er, That he'll fly — when

A But they say — the bee's — a rov - er, That he'll fly — when

T

B

mf

23

S sweets — are gone; — And — when once the kiss — is o - ver,

A sweets — are gone; — And — when once the kiss — is o - ver,

T

B

What the bee is to the flow'ret

26

S Faith - less brooks_ will wan - der on,

A Faith - less brooks_ will wan - der on,

T *mf* Nay, nay, ___ if flow'rs _ will

B *mf* Nay, nay, ___ if flow'rs will

29

S _ will wan - - - - der, wan - der on,

A _ will wan - - - - der, wan - der, wan - der on,

T lose ___ their looks, if ___ sun - ny banks ___ will wear ___ a - way,

B lose ___ their looks, if ___ sun - ny banks will wear ___ a - way,

32

S _ Well, _ well, 'tis ___ but right that bees ___ and brooks ___ should

A _ Well, _ well, Bees ___ and brooks should

T _ Well, _ well, Nay, 'tis ___ but right that bees should

B _ Well, _ well, Nay, 'tis ___ but right that bees should

What the bee is to the flow'ret

35

S
sip and kiss them while they may, while they may.

A
sip and kiss them, should sip and kiss them while they may.

T
sip and kiss them, should sip and kiss them while they may.

B
sip and kiss them, should kiss them while they may.

Boosey & Co.
(1901)

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